

Youthful Exuberance and Youthful Motivation

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Humans today, the world over, are at the cross roads, without a clear sense of direction. Problems ceaselessly belching out of ethnic, political and religious considerations are clouding the skies, making them helplessly look up to powers, on earth or elsewhere, which we believe are totally incapable of guiding them. There is no denying that all these three sources which we have named have miserably let down mankind on numerous occasions.

Evaluations which are unworthy of the modern age, not only of science and technology, but also of advanced philosophical thinking, have been senselessly used in championing conflicts and bloody massacres, costing human lives by the tens and hundreds of thousands on every venture. Statistics collected with a reasonable degree of honesty and with a modicum of human sympathy, whether from Vietnam, Korea, Bosnia and Sri Lanka of more recent times supply more than necessary evidence for these.

The youth today are the more sophisticated grown-ups of tomorrow. More and more youthful groups are in the forefront of societal activities everywhere in the world, vociferously demanding that their voices be heard. This indeed is a legitimate demand. But the concession to this has to depend entirely on the sanity and soundness of the demands. It is here that the older in society have to accept total responsibility for the growth of their youth, assimilating the values of the community to which they belong.

The community has to turn towards its smaller units, namely the family, with its unimpaired role of child rearing. The parents, particularly the mother, have to be reminded that after the delivery of the new baby after nine months and a little more, the contract about bringing up children does not cease. Both parents have actually to sign a new post-natal contract, to be jointly responsible for piloting

their new born son or daughter, even through the stormy seas of the teen-agers. At the very commencement of this period of child care, the mode of education of children certainly begins within the perimetre of that delightful institute called the home, where the parents, i.e. a mother and a father jointly accept responsibility for the rearing of their children.